

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 1736

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY) BR, US
SUBJ: PRESIDENT'S TRIP: JOINT COMMUNIQUE

REF: (A) BOUTON-JOHNSON TELECON MARCH 4; BRASILIA 1548

1. WITH REGARD TO THE DEPARTMENT'S QUERY AS TO THE
DESIRABILITY OF WORKING TOWARDS A JOING COMMUNIQUE TO
BE ISSUED AT THE TERMINATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT
TO BRAZIL, WE FIND STRONG ARGUMENTS BOTH FOR AND AGAINST
A COMMUNIQUE.

2. THE PRINCIPAL CONSIDERATIONS THAT ARGUE IN FAVOR OF
A COMMUNIQUE ARE:

A. IT WOULD FORMALLY AND PUBLICLY RECORD THE POSITIVE
ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE VISIT AND SET THEM CLEARLY
AGAINST THE INEVITABLE STATEMENT OF UNRESOLVED DIVERGENCES
ON THE CORE ISSUES BETWEEN US, I.E., NON-PROLIFERATION AND
HUMAN RIGHTS. IT WOULD THUS ENSURE BALANCE IN THE PUBLIC
PERCEPTION OF THE VISIT.

B. GEISEL'S VISIT TO MEXICO DID--AND HIS VISIT TO
GERMANY WILL--END WITH THE ISSUANCE OF A JOINT COMMUNIQUE.
THE LATTER PROMISES TO FAIRLY SUBSTANTIVE. THE ABSENCE
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OF A COMMUNIQUE--OR OF A SIMILAR FORMAL STATEMENT--FOLLOWING
PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT WOULD THUS BE ALL THE MORE NOTICEABLE
AND LEND WEIGHT TO INEVITABLE PRESS INTERPRETATION THAT THE
DIVERGENCES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE STRONG ENOUGH
TO PRECLUDE AGREEMENT ON EVEN SUBSIDIARY ISSUES WORTH RECORDING
IN A COMMUNIQUE.

C. UNLESS THE GOB STANCE IS GENERALLY NEGATIVE, WE BELIEVE A

COMMUNIQUE

ALONG THE LINES WE PROPOSED IN BRASILIA 1548 WOULD BE IN LARGE PART NEGOTIABLE. EVEN IF NO OTHER AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED, AND EVEN IF SOME OF THE ITEMS PROPOSED WERE DELETED BY THE BRAZILIANS OR THE USG INTERAGENCY REVIEW PROCESS IN WASHINGTON, WE WOULD PROBABLY END UP WITH A SUFFICIENTLY SUBSTANTIVE DOCUMENT TO WARRANT ITS USE.

3. ON THE OTHER SIDE, IT CAN BE ARGUED THAT:

A. BRAZILIAN RECEPTIVITY TO AND COOPERATION IN DRAFTING COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE WILL BE CONDITIONED BY THE GENERAL CLIMATE OF THE VISIT, WHICH IS NOT NOW FULLY PREDICTABLE. THE BRAZILIAN SIDE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO LET IT BE KNOWN IF EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE A COMMUNIQUE HAD FAILED.

B. WHILE WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO REFLECT POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS IN A COMMUNIQUE, THIS WILL NOT BE THE CASE ON THE NUCLEAR ISSUE WHICH, APPARENTLY, WILL PROVIDE THE CENTERPIECE FOR THE COMMUNIQUE TO BE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF GEISEL'S VISIT TO THE FRG AT THE END OF THIS WEEK. A BRAZIL-US COMMUNIQUE WOULD THUS CONTRAST SHARPLY WITH THE BRAZIL-FRG COMMUNIQUE ON THE CORE ISSUE BETWEEN US.

C. OUR OBJECTIVE OF CONVEYING TO THE PUBLIC--BOTH AMERICAN AND BRAZILIAN--THE BREADTH OF THE PRESIDENT'S DISCUSSIONS WITH GEISEL AND THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE VISIT COULD EFFECTIVELY BE ACCOMPLISHED VIA A BRIEFING BY THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS SPOKESMAN. SUCH A VEHICLE WOULD BE UNTRAMMELED BY THE CONFIDENTIAL

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NEGOTIATED AND, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, BLURRED COMPROMISE LANGUAGE OF A COMMUNIQUE.

4. FINALLY, HOWEVER, DURING CHARGE'S MOST RECENT DISCUSSION OF DETAILS OF VISIT WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY DEPUTY PROTOCOL CHIEF, LATTER INDICATED HIS BELIEF--ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT CERTAIN--THAT IT IS CUSTOMARY GOB PRACTICE THAT A COMMUNIQUE BE ISSUED AT THE END OF STATE VISITS. WE WILL BE HAPPY TO PURSUE THIS FURTHER WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IF THE DEPARTMENT WISHES. JOHNSON

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